

FAQ for StS and StEr revised (03.07.15)

DEFINITION

1. What is StS (Structural Steel Supervisor) and StEr (Structural Steel Engineer) about?

StS and StEr are certification courses designed to upgrade and train engineers and technicians who are involved in various stages and processes in structural steel projects in the construction industry.

Qualified StS Supervisors and StEr Engineers would complement some of the entry requirements in the Human Resource Criteria of the SSSS Structural Steel Fabricators Accreditation Scheme.

The courses emphasize practical and safety aspects of structural steel construction and are specially tailored for technical personnel working in the steel fabrication yards and on construction sites.

Resident Engineers and Resident Technical Officers in Civil & Structural Engineering and who are currently registered with the relevant Engineering Institution having the StS or StEr certification and a valid practicing certificate, qualify themselves to supervise major structural steel projects (ref. BCA Advisory Notes*).

2. What is the difference between StS and StEr, and who qualifies to attend these courses?

StS course is open to anyone (Developers, Architects, Design and Project Engineers, Professional Engineers, Fabricators, Erectors, Technicians, Resident Engineers, Resident Technical Officers, etc) who wishes to know more about structural steelwork in the construction industry.

StEr course is a follow-up after the StS course and is open primarily to candidates with a basic degree qualification in Civil, Structural, Building or Mechanical Engineering from local or foreign Universities and Colleges.

PROGRAMME

3. What are the course fees for StS and StEr and what is included in the fee?

Currently courses are held at Singapore Polytechnic and the fees* are :

StS (30 Hour Evening Course): S\$800.00 (SSSS members)
 S\$900.00 (Non-SSSS members)

StEr (33 Hour Evening Course): S\$1,200.00 (SSSS members)
 S\$1,300.00 (Non-SSSS members)

*Fees include course materials, main examination fee (re-sit for retest is chargeable) and snacks during tea-break.
* Fees shown (inclusive of GST) are indicative and are subjected to revision decided by SSSS from time-to-time.*

The above courses attract 33 PDUs & 27 PDUs for the StS & StEr courses respectively for participating Professional Engineers and 12 STU for Resident Engineers and Resident Technical Officers.

4. What is the duration of the course and where is it held?

StS (33 Hour Evening Course)
StEr (27 Hour Evening Course)

Both courses are held at Singapore Polytechnic, Dover Road, 6.30 pm to 9.30 pm.

5. How many courses of StS and StEr are conducted a year?

On average 3 nos. StS and 2 nos. StEr courses per year are normally conducted. However, the SSSS may conduct more courses should the need arises.

6. Will certificates be issued upon passing of the course?

Yes, "Certificates for qualified Structural Steel Supervisors, StS and Structural Steel Engineers, StEr*" will be issued by SSSS.

**** Candidates must pass both StS and StEr courses to qualify for registration as StEr.***

7. Can I retake the paper if I fail the exam?

Every candidate is allowed to resit the exam paper only once.

8. If I am unable to take the retest paper now, would I be able to resit one at the next intake?

Permission is only granted for candidate to resit paper at next intake if valid reason is submitted with supporting documents.

PRACTICING LICENSE

9. What are the criteria needed to be a StS and StEr?

All participants in the StS Course must pass a written examination to qualify for the StS Certificate issued by SSSS.

All participants in the StEr Course, **and who have also successfully completed a StS Course previously**, must pass a written examination in the StEr course, to qualify for the StEr Certificate. StEr participants who pass a written examination without the StS Certificate will be issued with a "Certificate of Success Completion" for the Engineer course only.

Candidates in both courses who fail to attend minimum 75% of the class lectures will not be permitted to sit for the examinations.

10. Must I be in the steel industry to attend the StS and StEr course?

The basic StS course is open to **anyone** who wishes to acquire specialised knowledge in structural steelwork planning, design, specification, procurement, fabrication and erection.

11. Where can I register to attend the StS or StEr course?

The application forms for both StS and StEr can be downloaded from the SSSS webpage: www.ssss.org.sg and submitted only to SSSS appointed Course Organizer.

12. Must I be a SSSS member to be able to attend the StS or StEr course?

No, you need not be a SSSS member to attend the courses. Anyone in the building industry can attend.

13. Do I automatically become a SSSS member upon passing the StS and StEr?

No, all successful candidates will be registered with the SSSS as StS Supervisors and StEr Engineers only and not as members of the Society. However, all are encouraged and invited to join SSSS to enjoy the benefits and continued education training programmes prepared for members of the Society.

14. If I'm already a practicing engineer, can I be exempted from StS course and proceed to attend the StEr course directly?

No. The requirement of registration as StEr shall meet the course entry criteria, that the candidate must hold a StS certificate.

15. Are the StS and StEr courses also open to foreigners?

Both courses are open to all, including foreigners.

16. How and where can I renew my StS or StEr practicing certificates?

Renewal can be made at the SSSS Secretariat with appropriate training record forms and Credit Points.

17. How long are my StS or StEr Practicing Licenses valid for?

Practicing licences for both StS & StEr are valid for 2 years.

18. If my Practicing License has expired, how can I continue to be listed as a StS or StEr in the SSSS website?

Only names of StS and StEr with valid practicing licenses will be listed in the SSSS website.

19. How many Credit Points are required for renewal of StS and StEr and how does one obtain these Credit Points?

Both StEr Engineers StS Supervisor requires at least 15 credit points or 15 'contact hours' to apply practicing license for the next 2-yearly qualifying period.

Credit Points may be obtained by attending only Structural Steel related Courses, Seminars, Workshops, Evening Talks, site visits, etc conducted by SSSS, BCA, ACES, IES, etc.

20. What happens if I missed one renewal with inadequate Credit Points?

For those who missed out one renewal for the practicing certificate, apart from submitting valid reasons for failure to meet the requirement, the following procedures will be adopted:

Both StEr and StS: A grace period of the first twelve (12) months will be given to the applicant to submit a make-up 15 Credit Points for the last qualifying period, followed by another 15 Credit Points for the next qualifying period.

Registered names will be removed from the SSSS webpage if the required make-up Credit Points are not submitted at the end of the grace periods.

21. What happens if I missed two renewals or more?

For those who missed two or more renewals for the practicing certificates apart from submitting valid reasons for failure to meet requirements, the following procedures will be adopted:

Both StEr and StS: A grace period of the first twelve (12) months will be given to the applicant to submit a make-up 30 Credit Points for the last qualifying period, follow by another 15 Credit Points for the next qualifying period.

Registered names will be removed from the SSSS webpage if the required make-up Credit Points are not submitted at the end of the grace periods.

22. If I have more points than required for the current StS or StEr renewal, can I carry over the excess Credit Points?

Yes, if the approved Credit Point cumulative record exceeds the requirement in one qualifying period, the following procedure will be adopted:

Both StEr and StS: A maximum of 12 Credit Points from the excess Credit Points may be carried forward into the next renewal qualifying period.

23. How long will each renewal process take?

Generally not more than 4 weeks upon submission of the training record forms and Practicing Certificate renewal payment.

24. Will a new certificate be issued for every renewal?

No new certificates will be issued upon renewal of the Practicing Certificate. The names active StS and StEr (with valid practicing certificates) will continue to be listed in the SSSS webpage.

25. I'm a StEr, what will happen to my StS qualification?

The StEr Certificate will supersede your StS Certificate. The SSSS will only record annual practicing license and update continued trainings for StEr Engineers from thereon.

26. I'm a StS / StEr currently involve in supervision of major structural steelwork, can I be exempted from submitting adequate Credit Points at the time of applying for the Practicing Certificate?

No. Everyone who wishes to have a valid Practicing Certificate and to have their names listed on the SSSS webpage, shall submit the relevant Credit Points and training records at the time of application.

BENEFITS

27. What are the benefits of being listed as a StS or StEr?

Certified StS Supervisors and StEr Engineers (with valid practicing certificates) will be accepted and given recognition under the Human Resource Criteria of the SSSS Structural Steel Fabricators Accreditation Scheme.

Certified StS and StEr may use the following appropriate abbreviations after their names.

Structural Steel Supervisor

SSSS Member: MSSSS-StS

SSSS Associate Member: AMSSSS-StS

Others: SSSS-StS

Structural Steel Engineer

SSSS Member: MSSSS-StEr

Others: SSSS-StEr

** Under the prevailing BCA advisory notes: Qualified Persons supervising major structural steelwork are advised to appoint Resident Engineers and Resident Technical Officers who are qualified StS Supervisors and StEr Engineers registered with the SSSS.*